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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,325	02/12/2002	Steven G. Smith	010284	6444
39262	7590	10/04/2005	EXAMINER	
BELLSOUTH CORPORATION P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			PATEL, CHIRAG R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2141	

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/074,325

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Chirag R. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 20, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. A discussion of Storch et al. – hereinafter Storch, (US 5,920,846) is presented below.

Applicant Arguments:

- 1) Storch, does not disclose if the repair report was previously accessed or received within a time period, predetermined or otherwise.
- 2) Storch at least does not disclose "verifying a first occurrence of access within a time period"
- 3) Storch at least does not disclose receiving the electronic message if access occurs for a first time within a predetermined time period"
- 4) In Storch, sending the generated electronic message to an access device if the generated electronic message has been modified is not disclosed.

Examiner's Response:

1, 2, and 3) Storch discloses (Storch: Figure 12, wait for a predefined time period, PFA status code)

Based on the class of service, the preliminary factor price is put on the service order in WFA/DO 270 along with a status code such as "pending facility assignment" (PFA) status code. A computer system such as a TaskMate computer system 272 queries WFA/DO 270 to determine which service orders having a PFA status code and a certain job type have been stored in WFA/DO 270 for longer than a predefined time interval (e.g., one hour or three hours). TaskMate 272 retrieves from any service order

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that satisfies these criteria information including the service order number, the wire center designation, the preliminary factor price (estimated time), the due date and appointment time, and sends this information to DUDAS 266. (Storch: Col 56 line 62 – Col 57 line 7)

4) As will be discussed in greater detail below, the TAS 276 employed in the system 200 of the present invention also communicates with LFACS to add or remove a remarks entry in the facility address preferably referred to as ;S.T.E. when a STE unit is left at the customer premise after service is disconnected. In addition, the present invention allows for the TAS 276 to communicate directly with SORD to modify or change the service order. More specifically, the TAS 276 can change any portion of the service and equipment (S&E) section of the service order stored in the SORD system, including correcting, updating or removing the USOC used to designate that an STE unit may need to be installed (e.g., STEXX or STEAS). In this situation, the technician access unit also completes the service order in SORD (see discussion below). (Storch: Col 71 line 66 – Col 72 line 13)

Cancelled Claims

As per claims 2-3, and 15: Claims 2, 3, and 15 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4-14, and 16-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Storch et al. (US 5,920,846).

As per claims 1, 14 and 21, Storch et al. discloses a method for communicating with a technician at a customer service location in a telecommunications system, (Col 82 lines 52-55, Figure 15 item 244) the method comprising

receiving an electronic message from an administration system to a technician access device at a technician server operatively associated with the administration system; (Col 71 lines 44-49, Figure 15 item 276)

receiving a request for access to the message from the access device; (Col 72 lines 24-27)

verifying a first occurrence of access within a time period; and (Col 56 line 62 – Col 57 line 7, Col 81 lines 25-28, Figure 12: wait for a predefined time period, PFA status code)

transmitting the received electronic message to the access device for display at the customer service location. (Col 71 lines 44-49, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claims 4 and 16, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising

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displaying the electronic message on a screen display if the access is verified as the first occurrence in the time period. (Col 56 line 62 – Col 57 line 7, Col 81 lines 25-51, Col 71 lines 44-49, Col 72 lines 14-30, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claims 5 and 17, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising not displaying the electronic message on a screen display if the access is verified as a second or subsequent time in the time period. (Col 81 lines 4-28, Col 81 line 60 – Col 82 line 15)

As per claim 6, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising sending the electronic message to an output device. (Col 71 lines 44-49)

As per claims 7 and 23, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising retrieving at least one previously generated electronic message. (Col 59 lines 22-45)

As per claims 8, 18, 24, and 32, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 1, wherein said the electronic message includes at least a first portion and a second portion. (Col 69 lines 46-64)

As per claims 9, 19, and 33, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 8, further comprising

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customizing at least one of the portions of the electronic message for displaying the customized portion to at least one technician[[s]]. (Col 69 lines 45-67, Col 72 lines 28-30, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claims 10, 20, and 34, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 9, further comprising identifying a profile characteristic stored in the administration system in connection with customizing at least one of the portions. (Col 70 lines 40-57)

As per claim 11, Storch et al. discloses a system for communicating with a technician at a customer service location in a telecommunications system, (Col 82 lines 52-55, Figure 15 item 244) the system comprising:

an administration system configured for generating at least one electronic message; (Col 80 lines 29-33)

a technician server operatively associated with the administration system, (Figure 15 item 276)

the technician server configured for receiving the generated electronic message; and, (Col 71 lines 44-49)

sending the generated electronic message to an access device if the generated electronic message has been modified; (Col 71 line 66 – Col 72 line 13)

a screen display configured to display the electronic message for

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viewing on the access device if the generated electronic message was received by the access device from the technician server. (Col 72 lines 14-32, Col 82 lines 52-57, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claim 12, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 11, further comprising at least one output device operatively associated with the access device and configured for receiving the electronic message. (Col 72 lines 14-30, Figure 15 items 276, 278)

As per claim 13, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 11, wherein the administration system includes a database having at least one profile characteristic stored thereon. (Col 70 lines 40-57)

As per claim 22, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 21, further comprising means for outputting the displayed electronic message. (Col 72 lines 16-23)

As per claim 25, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 24, further comprising means for customizing at least one of the portions of the electronic message. (Col 69 lines 46-67)

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As per claim 26, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 25, further comprising means for displaying the customized portion to at least one technician. (Col 72 lines 14-23, Col 72 lines 28-30, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claim 27, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 25, further comprising

means for identifying a profile characteristic stored in the administration system, the administration system being operatively associated with the means for customizing at least a portion of the electronic message. (Col 70 lines 40-58)

As per claim 28, Storch et al. discloses the system of Claim 21, further comprising means for dismissing the displayed electronic message. (Col 72 lines 15-21) The means for dismissing the displayed electronic message is inherent to the TAS. (Figure 15 item 278)

As per claim 29, Storch et al. discloses a method for communicating with a technician at a customer service location in a telecommunications system, (Col 82 lines 52-55) the method comprising:
receiving access for a technician server for receiving an electronic message from an administration system operatively associated with the technician server, (Col 72 lines 24-27, Figure 15 item 276)

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receiving the electronic message if access occurs for a first time within a predetermined time period; and (Col 81 lines 25-51, Col 71 lines 44-49, Col 72 lines 14-30, Figure 15 item 278)

communicating the message to an output device. (Col 71 lines 45-47, Col 72 lines 14-23, Col 72 lines 27-28, Figure 15 item 278)

As per claim 30, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 29, further comprising not receiving the electronic message if the access occurs for a second or subsequent time in the time period. (Col 81 lines 25-29, Col 81 lines 60-67)

As per claim 31, Storch et al. discloses the method of Claim 29, wherein the output device comprises a displaying screen. (Col 72 lines 14-23, Col 72 lines 28-30)
The screen is inherent to the TAS. (Figure 15 item 278)

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. These references are disclosed in the Notices of References cited page and teach numerous methods and systems for communicating with service technicians in a telecommunications system. A close review of these references is recommended.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag R. Patel whose telephone number is (571)272-7966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30AM to 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia, can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairedirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private

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PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197
(toll free).


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER